

**The recurrence of *Polistichus connexus* (Fourc.) (Col.: Carabidae) at light in the London suburbs, with a few thoughts on the question of origin**

It is of interest to record that two further examples of this scarce beetle (see Allen, 1991, *Ent. Rec.* **103**: 6) turned up here this year, 1995, again at mercury-vapour light (11.viii and 15.viii, both warm nights). One of them has the elytra almost uniformly testaceous, but shows no sign of immaturity; the other is normal. (I should interpose here that for 1990 the total was six specimens, not four – singletons occurring on 23.viii and 26.viii, after I had sent in my note.)

Though the origin of these beetles remains debatable, it is becoming increasingly likely, almost to the point of certainty, that they are not members of our native stock of *P. connexus* but immigrants – a suggestion I owe in the first place to Mr P.F. Whitehead, and which may well apply equally to other most unlikely beetle visitors to the lamp (*Bledius* spp. for instance). The only difficulty I have with this idea is the complete absence of obviously immigrant moths along with the beetles, of which one would surely expect a few. However, reinforcing the immigration theory is the significant fact that *Polistichus* occurred also in Sir John Dacie's light trap at Wimbledon, S.W. London, in the same two years as the Charlton specimens; there the unlikelihood of a breeding centre in the vicinity is still greater than it is here. And after all, if some moths frequently reach inland Britain from the Continent, as they undoubtedly do, why not certain beetles likewise?

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**Editorial Note**

*Polistichus connexus* is an enigmatic creature to say the least. I used to regularly take it under stones on the foreshore and undercliff at Newhaven in Sussex and once under a discarded tractor tyre on the north Kent saltmarshes at Twinney. As well as Wimbledon light traps, a single specimen was found in a pitfall trap on the Common on 14.viii.90 (Henderson, 1991, *Br.J.Ent.Nat.Hist.* **4**: 8). Shortly before Mr Allen's recent Charlton specimens were trapped, Mr M. Simmons had two specimens to a light trap at Norman's Bay, Pevensey, East Sussex on the warm night of 1.viii.95, together with a large number of migratory moths and other unusual beetles (1996, *Br.J.Ent.Nat.Hist.* **9**: in press).— RICHARD A. JONES.

**A note on two clavicorn beetles in Kent**

*Triplax aenea* (Schal.) (Erotylidae): among some beetle remnants submitted to me by Mr K.C. Lewis of Welling, West Kent, from debris of starlings' nests in his attic (a 20-year accumulation) was a fore-body of this species – luckily with a small piece of bright blue elytron still attached, making identification certain. *T. aenea* (apart from being long-known from the New Forest) has until recently been mainly a species of the midlands and north,

not found in the London and south-eastern districts; but within the last 15 years or more has spread into some of those areas, notably Berkshire (as at Windsor, freely) and Surrey. However, the above would seem to be its first occurrence in Kent, as far as records go.

*Rhizophagus dispar* (Payk.) (Rhizophagidae): I took a single example of this under bark of one of a number of larch poles dumped at the side of a path in Joydens Wood, Bexley, West Kent (14.vi.1995). Being a not uncommon species, it is rather strange that there appears to be no published record for the county, and that *R. dispar* has not been previously noticed in its north-west portion. As regards East Kent, Mr N.F. Heal tells me he finds it regularly in several localities (extending to mid-Kent) but only from 1989 – a fact suggesting a newcomer to the county. The case is not unlike that of *Triplax aenea* (see above). Fowler (1889, *Col. Brit. Isl.* 3: 266) wrote of *Rhizophagus dispar*: “it does not . . . apparently occur in the London district or the South”. I took it in Hertfordshire in 1935, but it was not on the original Windsor Forest list (Donisthorpe, 1939) though found there in later years. – A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

### Unusual partial second broods of moths taken on the Isle of Wight in 1995

The year 1995 will be remembered for having the warmest and driest summer in the island since 1989. This was followed by the wettest September and the warmest and sunniest October since records began.

Surprisingly there were fewer late partial second and third broods of moths compared to 1989 and 1994. However, three species are worthy of mention and these partial second brood examples are not mentioned in any entomological literature.

1. *Oligia strigilis* (Linn.) 1 September, Shanklin (Lt. Cdr. J.M. Cheverton).
2. *Apeira syringaria* (Linn.) 1 October, Binstead (B.J. Warne).
3. *Mimas tiliæ* (Linn.) 12 October, Freshwater (S.A. Knill-Jones).

All the above moths were taken at mercury vapour light. – S.A. KNILL-JONES, Roundstone, 2 School Green Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight.

### *Melanitis leda* L. (Lep.: Satyridae) crepuscular flight in Thailand

Frequenting shady habitats from southern Africa, across south-east Asia to Australia and Japan, this is a familiar butterfly often disturbed from the leaf litter on the ground by day to fly somewhat floppily to settle again a short distance away. However, reference to its natural crepuscular flight is very rarely mentioned, apart from its attraction to light.

In Pennington's *Butterflies of Southern Africa* (1978) is the statement “but after sunset or on warm overcast days it flops about even in open glades”